

Attachment A

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT:	Anita Hogans Simpson)
) Group Art Unit: 2686
SERIAL NO.:	10/611,383)
)
FILED:	June 30, 2003) Examiner: J. K. Contee
)
FOR:	METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR) Confirmation No. 1519
	PROVIDING SELECTED STATUS)
	ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM A WIRELESS)
	TELEPHONE USER TO A CALLER)

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

AMENDMENT

Applicant respectfully requests entry of the following amendment and remarks contained herein in response to the Office Action mailed October 17, 2005. Applicant respectfully submits that the amendment and remarks contained herein place the instant application in condition for allowance.

AMENDMENTS TO CLAIMS

The following listing of claims replaces all previous versions and listings of claims in the Application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for providing selected status announcements from a wireless telephone user to a caller, said method comprising:

receiving an incoming telephone call from a caller;

responsive to a determination that an automatic answering mode applies to the incoming call:

receiving a pre-selected announcement action corresponding to said incoming telephone call; and

performing said pre-selected announcement action wherein if said pre-selected announcement action includes a hold announcement then answering said incoming telephone call by providing the caller with the hold announcement; and

responsive to a determination that a manual answering mode applies to the incoming call:

receiving a user-selected announcement action selected by said user from a list of announcement actions, said user-selected announcement action selected in response to receiving said incoming telephone call; and

performing said user-selected announcement action including:

if said user-selected announcement action includes said hold announcement then answering said incoming telephone call by providing the caller with the hold announcement; and

if said user-selected announcement action includes a call-back announcement, then providing the caller with the call-back announcement and disconnecting the telephone call; and

responsive to a particular caller identification~~Caller ID~~associated with a particular caller,
sending the incoming call to a voice mail system without alerting the user of the incoming call.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said answering said incoming telephone call by providing the caller with the hold announcement further includes placing the wireless telephone in mute mode until the user has taken the incoming telephone call.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising notifying said user of said incoming telephone call.

4. (Original) The method of claim 3 wherein said notifying includes one or more of an audible noise, a vibration, and a light.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising reminding said user that said caller is on hold in response to said providing the caller with the hold announcement.

6. (Original) The method of claim 5 wherein said reminding said user that said caller is on hold includes one or more of an audible noise, a vibration, and a light.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein input to said determination that an automatic answering mode applies to the incoming call includes a Caller ID associated with said caller.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein input to said determination that an automatic answering mode applies to the incoming call includes a time of day associated with said telephone call.

9. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein input to said determination that an automatic answering mode applies to the incoming call includes an instruction from said user.

10. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein input to said determination that a manual mode applies to the incoming call includes one or more of a Caller ID associated with said caller, a time of day associated with said telephone call and an instruction from said user.

11. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said pre-selected announcement action includes a hold announcement.

12. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said pre-selected announcement action includes a call-back announcement.

13. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said pre-selected announcement action includes a voice mail announcement.

14. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 13 wherein said performing said pre-selected announcement action includes providing said caller with a recorded announcement and directing said call to asaid voice mail system.

15. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said pre-selected announcement action is created by said user.

16. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said hold announcement includes an indication that said user will take said call momentarily.

17. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said hold announcement is pre-selected from a plurality of said hold announcements.

18. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said call-back announcement is selected from a plurality of said call-back announcements.

19. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein said performing said user-selected announcement action further includes if said user-selected announcement action includes a voice mail announcement, then directing said call to asaid voice mail system including specifying said voice mail announcement.

20. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein said performing said user-selected announcement action further includes if said user-selected announcement action includes a voice mail announcement, then providing said caller with a recorded announcement and directing said call to asaid voice mail system.

21. (Currently Amended) A wireless telephone for providing selected status announcements from a wireless telephone user to a caller, the system comprising:

a receiver which receives an incoming telephone call;

an automatic answering unit in communication with said receiver and including instructions to implement a method comprising:

receiving an incoming telephone call from a caller;

responsive to a determination that an automatic answering mode applies to the incoming call:

receiving a pre-selected announcement action corresponding to said incoming telephone call; and

performing said pre-selected announcement action wherein if said pre-selected announcement action includes a hold announcement then answering said incoming telephone call by providing the caller with the hold announcement; and

responsive to a determination that a manual answering mode applies to the incoming call:

receiving a user-selected announcement action selected by said user from a list of announcement actions, said user-selected announcement action selected in response to receiving said incoming telephone call; and

performing said user-selected announcement action including:

if said user-selected announcement action includes said hold announcement then answering said incoming telephone call by providing the caller with the hold announcement; and

if said user-selected announcement action includes a call back announcement, then providing the caller with the call-back announcement and disconnecting the telephone call; and

responsive to a particular caller identification~~Caller ID~~ associated with a particular caller, sending the incoming call to a voice mail system without alerting the user of the incoming call.

22. (Currently Amended) A system for providing selected status announcements from a wireless telephone user to a caller, the system comprising:

a network;

a wireless telephone in communication with said network; and

a host system in communication with said network, wherein said host system includes instructions to implement method comprising:

receiving an incoming telephone call from a caller to the wireless telephone;

responsive to a determination that an automatic answering mode applies to the incoming call:

receiving a pre-selected announcement action corresponding to said incoming telephone call; and

performing said pre-selected announcement action wherein if said pre-selected announcement action includes a hold announcement then answering said incoming telephone call by providing the caller with the hold announcement; ~~and~~

responsive to a determination that a manual answering mode applies to the incoming call:

receiving a user-selected announcement action from said wireless telephone via said network, said user-selected announcement action selected by

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said user from a list of announcement actions, said user-selected announcement action selected in response to receiving said incoming telephone call; and

performing said user-selected announcement action including:

if said user-selected announcement action includes said hold announcement then answering said incoming telephone call by providing the caller with the hold announcement;

if said user-selected announcement action includes a voice mail announcement then directing said call to a voicemail system; and

if said user-selected announcement action includes a call back announcement, then providing the caller with the call-back announcement and disconnecting the telephone call; and

responsive to a particular caller identification~~Caller-ID~~ associated with a particular caller, sending the incoming call to a voice mail system without alerting the user of the incoming call.

23. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 22 wherein said performing said pre-selected announcement action further includes if said user-selected announcement action includes a voice mail announcement, then directing said call to asaid voice mail system.

24. (Original) The system of claim 22 wherein said network is a public switched telephone network.

25. (Original) The system of claim 22 wherein said network is an internet protocol network.

26. (Currently Amended) A computer program product for providing selected status announcements from a wireless telephone user to a caller, the computer program product comprising:

a storage medium readable by a processing circuit and storing instructions for execution by the processing circuit for performing a method comprising:

receiving an incoming telephone call from a caller;

responsive to a determination that an automatic answering mode applies to the incoming call:

receiving a pre-selected announcement action corresponding to said incoming telephone call; and

performing said pre-selected announcement action wherein if said pre-selected announcement action includes a hold announcement then answering said incoming telephone call by providing the caller with the hold announcement; and

responsive to a determination that a manual answering mode applies to the incoming call:

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receiving a user-selected announcement action selected by said user from a list of announcement actions, said user-selected announcement action selected in response to receiving said incoming telephone call; and

performing said user-selected announcement action including:

if said user-selected announcement action includes said hold announcement then answering said incoming telephone call by providing the caller with the hold announcement; and

if said user-selected announcement action includes a call back announcement, then providing the caller with the call-back announcement and disconnecting the telephone call; and

responsive to a particular caller identification~~Caller-ID~~ associated with a particular caller, sending the incoming call to a voice mail system without alerting the user of the incoming call.

27. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the automatic answering mode includes a list of tailored announcements that cover user specific situations and each of the announcements is named.

28. (New) The wireless telephone of claim 21, wherein the automatic answering mode includes a list of tailored announcements that cover user specific situations and each of the announcements is named.

29. (New) The system of claim 22, wherein the automatic answering mode includes a list of tailored announcements that cover user specific situations and each of the announcements is named.

30. (New) The computer program product of claim 26, wherein the automatic answering mode includes a list of tailored announcements that cover user specific situations and each of the announcements is named.

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action mailed on October 17, 2005, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration based on the above claim amendments and the following remarks. Applicant respectfully submits that the claims as presented are in condition for allowance.

Claims 1, 14, 19-23, and 26 have been amended and new Claims 27-30 have been added, leaving Claims 1-30 for consideration upon entry of the present amendment.

Support for Claim Amendments

Support for the features of amended Claims 1, 21, 22, and 26 may be found, for example, at paragraph [0022] at page 9 of the specification. Support for the the features of new Claims 27-30 may be found, for example, at paragraph [0027] on pages 11-12 of the specification. No new matter has been added by the amendments.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-26 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Peters et al., U.S. Patent No. 2003/0003926 (hereinafter "Peters"). "A claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference." *Verdegaal Bros. V. Union Oil Co. of California*, 814 F.2d 628, 631, 2 USPQ2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987).

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections because Peters fails to teach, either expressly or inherently, all of the elements of independent Claims 1, 21, 22, and 26.

Claim 1, as amended, recites "A method for providing selected status announcements from a wireless telephone user to a caller, said method comprising: receiving an incoming telephone call from a caller; responsive to a determination that an automatic answering mode applies to the incoming call: receiving a pre-selected announcement action corresponding to said

incoming telephone call; and performing said pre-selected announcement action wherein if said pre-selected announcement action includes a hold announcement then answering said incoming telephone call by providing the caller with the hold announcement; responsive to a determination that a manual answering mode applies to the incoming call: receiving a user-selected announcement action selected by said user from a list of announcement actions, said user-selected announcement action selected in response to receiving said incoming telephone call; and performing said user-selected announcement action including: if said user-selected announcement action includes said hold announcement then answering said incoming telephone call by providing the caller with the hold announcement; and if said user-selected announcement action includes a call-back announcement, then providing the caller with the call-back announcement and disconnecting the telephone call; and responsive to a particular caller identification associated with a particular caller, sending the incoming call to a voice mail system without alerting the user of the incoming call.” (Emphasis added)

In contrast, Peters fails to teach, either expressly or inherently, at least the element “responsive to a particular caller identification associated with a particular caller, sending the incoming call to a voice mail system without alerting the user of the incoming call”, as recited in Claim 1. Therefore, Peters does not anticipate Claim 1 for at least the reason that Peters does not teach, either or expressly or inherently, all of the elements of Claim 1. Claims 21, 22, and 26 also include the element “responsive to a particular caller identification associated with a particular caller, sending the incoming call to a voice mail system without alerting the user of the incoming call”, and Applicant submits that they are patentable over Peters for at least the reasons given for Claim 1. Claims 2-20 depend from Claim 1 and are believed to be allowable at least due to their dependency on Claim 1. Claims 23-25 depend from Claim 22 and are believed to be allowable at least due to their dependency on Claim 22.

New Claims 27-30 include the element “the automatic answering mode includes a list of tailored announcements that cover user specific situations and each of the announcements is named”, as well as all elements of independent Claims 1, 21, 22, and 26, respectively.

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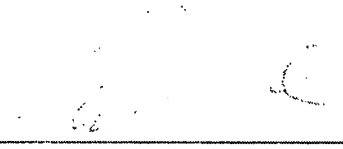
Therefore, new Claims 27-30 are believed to be allowable at least due to their dependencies on allowable Claim 1, 21, 22 and 26 respectively.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing remarks and amendments, Applicant submits that the above-identified application is now in condition for allowance. Early notification to this effect is respectfully requested.

If there are any charges with respect to this response or otherwise, please charge them to Deposit Account 06-1130 maintained by Applicants' attorneys.

Respectfully submitted,

By 
David A. Fox
Registration No. 38,807
Customer No. 36192

Date: January 17, 2006
Address: 55 Griffin Road South, Bloomfield, CT 06002
Telephone: (860) 286-2929